

## **Historic, archived document**

Do not assume content reflects current  
scientific knowledge, policies, or practices



62.23

1890

Indexed



—THE—

**CURTIS NURSERY.**

ESTABLISHED 1818.

B. O. CURTIS'

**Strawberry Catalogue.**

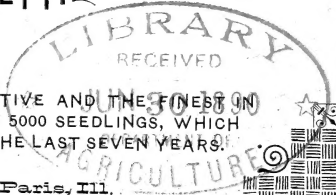
**THE EDGAR QUEEN**

—A SPECIALTY.—

THE LARGEST, THE MOST PRODUCTIVE AND THE FINEST IN  
QUALITY, SELECTED FROM OVER 5000 SEEDLINGS, WHICH  
I HAVE GROWN AND TESTED IN THE LAST SEVEN YEARS!

B. O. CURTIS, Paris, Ill.

PARIS BEACON JOB PRINT









## ≡THE CURTIS NURSERY.≡

—  
ESTABLISHED 1818.  
—

This is the oldest collection of fruit in the United States, having been brought here to Edgar county in 1818 by my father, Joseph Curtis, (while Illinois was yet a territory) a small but very select list which he had been fifteen years collecting and testing in an experimental nursery and orchard near Manchester, Adams county, Ohio, before he removed to this county.

Eighty-seven years of persistent labor has been spent in perfecting the Curtis collection of fruit, in procuring from all parts of the country the most highly recommended varieties, *testing* and rejecting the unworthy and carefully preserving the *most valuable*.

THE EDGAR QUEEN STRAWBERRY a specialty. The largest, the most productive and the finest in quality, selected from over 5,000 seedlings which I have grown and tested in the last seven years. Send all orders to

B. O. CURTIS,  
Paris, Illinois.

---

### ≡REFERENCES AND TESTIMONIAL.≡

First National Bank, Paris.	Geo. W. Redmon, Merchant.
Henry Rives, Circuit Clerk.	Wm. B. Caldwell, Nurseryman.
H. R. Miller, Merchant.	Jacob Cretors.
Col. H. Van Sellar, Attorney.	Samuel Graham, Sr.
A. J. Hunter, County Judge.	Keifer Laufman, County Clerk.
D.S. Schenck & Co., Merchants.	W. O. Pinnell, P. M.
George F. Howard, Editor <i>Paris Beacon</i> .	

This is to certify that I photographed Mr. B. O. Curtis' strawberries, and will say that they are true to statement in catalogue, also the Edgar Queen is true to statement in catalogue.

I. R. MARTIN, Photographer.

## STRAWBERRY CATALOGUE.

---

I have for many years been experimenting with the strawberry, in raising new varieties from seed. The great trouble, until more recently, was in getting the seed to vegetate. By a new process in managing them they come with great certainty. In 1883 I gathered four gallons of large nice berries from twelve of the best varieties that I had in bearing, these were mixed and mashed in water and the pulp washed from the seed. From this planting I raised over 4000 seedlings. There was every description of plants from the veriest dwarf to the mammoth size, the berries the same and of varied quality from the very sour to the *most delicious*.

The seed having been mixed, I could not tell from which variety a plant had been derived. In 1884 I raised from labeled seed 300 seedlings from Capt. Jack, 350 from Crescent, 130 from Manchester, 390 from Glendale, 143 from an Everbearing and 100 from an Alpine variety; and also many plants from the Hovey, Phelps, Sharpless, Cumberland, Mt. Vernon and Wilson.

From a previous planting I raised thirty-six plants from the Hovey. The best one of these was a very large, late berry, my No. 95. I planted seed of this on the 27th of June, 1888, and raised 120 plants, and on the same date one year later, twenty of these were bearing fruit and one of them had ripened its fruit. From these I hope to obtain a larger and later berry than heretofore known.

When a seedling produces fruit showing extra quality, I give it a number. In this way I have given numbers to 157 plants and tested them farther. This list is now cut down to forty, and of these there are five varieties that I believe to be superior to all the old varieties.

Numbers 51 and 54 are from mixed seed and have each borne five heavy crops. No. 87 is from seed of Glendale, is large and



has been bearing four years, is of a beautiful pink color. No. 152 is from seed of Crescent and has made four crops. This is a large, beautiful deep scarlet berry. The four above numbers have pistillate blossoms and are the heaviest bearers that I have ever witnessed. No. 15 is from seed of Capt. Jack and is a remarkable variety, having staminate or perfect blossoms.

Of the 300 seedlings of Capt. Jack there were but three of them pistillate. No. 15 is not as full a bearer as the four above pistillate sorts, but it is by far the greatest producer of any variety, old or new that I have grown, having staminate or perfect blossoms. It has fruited four seasons, is as early as the Crescent, much larger, better in quality and far more prolific. Believing that this is the most productive and valuable staminate variety of which I have any knowledge; if its coming crop is as satisfactory as previous ones, and I can get it increased sufficiently, I will put it on the market another year. Last June I decided to put my new seedling strawberry on the market in the following way at two dollars per dozen, the plants not to be sent out until I got one thousand orders. It is my No. 51, selected from over five thousand plants, that I have raised from seed and tested in the last seven years. It has given five crops in succession and apparently improves each season. It is the largest, the most productive and the finest in quality of any variety that I have ever grown. I have fruited over one hundred of the most noted varieties which have been sent out since the advent of the Hovey's seedling, and none of them have equaled this magnificent new variety. It is conceded that the originator of a new fruit has the first right to name it and if he does not the Horticultural Society has the next right. I claim my right and now publicly christen it the EDGAR QUEEN. Edgar is a noble county, worthy of the berry, and the berry is worthy of the name, and while we as good democrats and republicans differ on politics, we may now bow to this Queen of fruits and all be united in the verdict that it is the most wonderful berry that we have ever known. On one plant two years old were counted 179 berries ripe and green, and on one fruit spike on the same there were 58 berries. On plants set the 22d of August I counted 65 berries on one plant and 73 on another.

On a row of these, set at the same time, which had received no cultivation and the blue grass and weeds had nearly covered them,

there were from 15 to 25 berries to the plant, and a friend to whom they were shown counted on one of the plants 36 berries and said that this was the best proof of the great value of the variety to see it yielding such fine large clusters in utter neglect. From June set plants I measured a berry that was over two and one-half inches in diameter, and from the same planting in matted rows sixteen berries measured one quart and weighed one pound. The plant is very hardy and has never been affected with the rust and is one of the most vigorous and beautiful growers.

The 2d of last May the frost and freeze killed the entire crop of the Sharpless and most of the Crescent, while this variety was not damaged in the least, and again in ripening time a week of wet and damp weather ruined most of the fruit of the old varieties that escaped the spring frosts, while the EDGAR QUEEN matured an immense crop in fair condition. The contrast is so great that I am compelled to believe that the old varieties are running out and must give way to new and more vigorous plants. It has a pistillate blossom and so have all the heavy bearers. There is no staminate sort that can equal it in productiveness, but they must be fertilized. Plant a row of the EDGAR QUEEN four feet apart in the row and train the runners along the row each way from the plants, set until you get the space sufficiently filled to insure a good crop of fruit the next season. Any spaces that cannot be filled in this way may be supplied by taking the plants from near the hills where too thick.

Plant at the same time a row four feet from them of staminate plants that is a variety having perfect blossoms. For this purpose I would recommend the JESSIE, a new and valuable variety lately introduced. It is a healthy strong plant yielding a fair crop of large and beautiful fruit of excellent quality. In extended planting every fourth row should be of staminate varieties. Before planting put the ground in good condition, make it level and in hoeing and plowing keep it flat, any ridging or hilling up about the plants is very injurious. Keep up the cultivation to the end of September. When the winter sets in cover the plants with two inches of straw and from three to four inches deep between the rows.

If late set plants, in the spring remove the straw and cultivate early. If of bearing age, remove the straw from over the plants

and let it remain between the rows until the fruit is gathered to keep it clean, and then remove it and keep up the cultivation.

Plants may be set in October, November and April in perfect safety; at other seasons of the year there is more risk and there should be greater care in handling them. They may be set any time in the fall before the winter sets in, and will make an earlier and a stronger growth the next season than if set in the spring.

In my effort to produce new varieties of strawberries a high standard of perfection has been sought and obtained by a persistent effort and a determination not to introduce a berry unless I obtained one of an unimpeachable character.

If I did not know that the EDGAR QUEEN was the largest, the best and the most productive plant ever fruited in this locality, and if I did not feel certain that it is an advance on all the varieties that have preceded it throughout the entire country, I would not now be introducing it to the public. I claim for the EDGAR QUEEN that it ripens from near the earliest to near the latest. It gives heavy pickings for a greater length of time than any variety of which I have a knowledge. It is the most certain cropper, as it has never known a failure. It is a massive grower, its roots strike deep into the earth and it withstood the severe drouth of 1888, yielding a full crop of the finest fruit. It is a firm berry of a beautiful bright red color. It is a larger, more productive and finer in quality than either Jessie or the Bubach.

I intend to keep up a supply of the EDGAR QUEEN grown in pots through August and September for all who wish them. These can be turned out of the pots and planted in dry, hot weather without checking the growth of the plants. If planted in August, will give a heavy crop of fruit the next season, and half a crop if set in September. I will also furnish plants potted of the Jessie, Bubach and several other valuable varieties.

## ≡PRICE OF PLANTS.≡

NOTE.—Varieties marked "P" are pistillate and should have every fourth row planted with a staminate variety to fertilize.

✓ EDGAR QUEEN, p.—Per dozen \$2.00.

✓ JESSIE.—Large and beautiful, a vigorous grower with a perfect blossom. One of the best varieties to fertilize the pistillate sorts. This valuable berry was introduced a few years ago by C. A. Green, of Rochester, New York. Per dozen 25 cents; per hundred \$1.00.

✓ BUBACH, p.—Originated by J. G. Bubach, Princeton, Illinois. He regards it as the strongest growing plant, the largest and best berry that he has grown. It has fruited here the past two seasons and is making a good record. Per dozen 25 cents; per hundred \$1.00.

✓ BELMONT, p.—Oblong berry very distinct inform, dark crimson color with high flavor. Per dozen 40 cents; per hundred \$1.50.

✓ JEWELL, p.—Large bright color, changing to crimson when fully ripe. Per dozen 40 cents.

✓ MONMOUTH.—Large and one of the earliest to ripen. Per dozen 40 cents.

✓ PHELPS (OLD IRONCLAD.)—Plant vigorous, fruit large, scarlet, very good quality. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred \$1.00.

✓ SHARPLESS.—Very large, fine quality. One of the best old sorts. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ CRESCENT, p.—Medium size, very productive. One of the earliest. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ MAY KING.—A strong grower, a few days later than the above. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ WILSON.—Has failed to do well in this locality. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ CUMBERLAND.—Very large and of good quality, medium season. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ CHARLES DOWNING.—A well known old variety of fine quality. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ CAPT. JACK.—Productive and early. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ KENTUCKY.—Large, late and of fine quality. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ GLENDALE.—Large, productive, late. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ MANCHESTER, p.—One of the most productive old varieties. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred 75 cents.

✓ MT. VERNON.—Strong plant, fruit very large, fine quality, late. Per dozen 25 cents; per hundred \$1.00.

✓ SUCKER STATE.—Originated by J. B. Miller, of Anna, Illinois. Per dozen 20 cents; per hundred \$1.00.

✓ PARRY.—A large, fine berry, from New Jersey. Per dozen 30 cents.

The following varieties have not fruited with me yet but are highly recommended:

✓ WARFIELD NO. 2, p.—As early and productive as the Crescent and of better quality. Per dozen 30 cents; per hundred \$1.50.

✓ HAVERLAND, p.—One of the largest and earliest. Per dozen 30 cents; per hundred \$1.50.

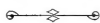
✓ CLOUD, p.—Large and early. Per dozen 40 cents.

✓ GANDY.—Large, fine quality, very late. Sent out by J. T. Lovett, of New Jersey. Per dozen 40 cents.

✓ MIAMI, p.—Large and late. Per dozen 40 cents.

✓ STAYMAUS NO. 1.—Per dozen \$1.00.

### ≡INSTRUCTIONS.≡



Plants may be sent safely by mail to any part of the United States. Persons ordering should send 30 cents per hundred to pre-pay the postage, except on plants ordered at dozen rates on which I will pre-pay without charge.

Price of pot-grown plants 25 cents per dozen and \$1.00 per hundred in addition to price of layered plants. Sent by express or freight, the purchaser paying charges.

Money may be sent at my risk by Post Office Order on Paris, Registered Letter or by Express.



